Drought Relief Programmes in Himachal Pradesh

871. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of funds under the 'Drought Relief Programme' cleared by the Central Government for various drought hit States recently;

(b) whether a request was also received from Himachal Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of funds sought and sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) State-wise details of assistance approved from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for Drought 2004-05 are indicated below:

State	Assistance approved from NCCF* (Rs. in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	141.47
Bihar	162.15
Jharkhand	139.82
Madhya Pradesh	36.30
Tamil Nadu	156.84
Uttar Pradesh	360.64

*Subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State

(b) and (c) This year, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has not so far reported drought and no Memorandum seeking Central assistance has so far been received from the State:

Fruit industry in J and K

872. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that fruit growing is the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

only industry in Jammu and Kashmir that generates income and provide employment to people;

(b) whether this industry in that State has been facing crisis and sale-proceeds of Kashmir apple have been falling during the last few years; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to go into the ailment of this indusry and retrieve the same to health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Fruit growing is one of the promising sector of horticulture industry in Jammu and Kashmir, which generates sustainable income and provide ample employment opportunities to the people.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has not received any report regarding the crisis and falling in prices of Kashmir apple. However, recognizing the importance of horticulture, which includes fruit industry, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal" in the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 2003-04. The Mission envisages to address all the issues related to development of horticulture such as development and introduction of high yielding varieties and technologies, expansion of area, post harvest handling and management marketing, value addition, processing and export of horticulture produce with a major focus for fruit industry. The Tenth Plan outlay for implementation of these programmes in Jammu and Kashmir is Rs. 100.00 crores.

During the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 7.5 crores has been released for implementation of the above programmes. During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 15.5 crores has been allocated, of which Rs. 7.595 crores is released for implementation of the programmes for development of horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir.

For promotion of export of apples and walnuts from Jammu and Kashmir, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce has established two Agri-Export Zones (AEZs), one each for apple and walnut.